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Rohit Sharma and R Ashwin celebrate a wicket against England on the second day of the second Test in Chennai on Sunday | BCCI

ASHWIN SPINS WEB AROUND ENGLAND

India took command of the second Test after an exhilarating Day 2 when 15 wickets fell on a rapidly deteriorating pitch, with star spinner Ravichandran Ashwin ensuring a massive first innings lead for the hosts with his 29th five-wicket haul, here on Sunday. By close of play, India were 53 for one in the second innings, extending their lead to 249 runs. P13

Was private firm favoured, Survey of India asks DC

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

THE Survey of India, apart from raising questions over missing survey numbers at Honnavar port, has also sought an explanation from the Uttara Kannada deputy commissioner on additional land without survey numbers being handed over to a private firm.

TNIE, in its edition dated February 14, 2021, reported that survey numbers are missing, altering the borders of four villages along the coast. The Survey of India, in a letter, has asked how the port boundaries were altered and whether it was to help a private Hyderabad-based port company. Officials have acted after local fishermen raised a complaint saying that the land belongs to them, but has been handed over to the firm. The fishermen have also pointed out to the missing survey numbers.

Uttara Kannada DC Harish Kumar K (now transferred) said that it is an additional piece of land that has formed over a period of time because of sand deposits and the survey numbers are yet to be allocated. As the land belongs to the government, it has been allotted to the company, he added.

A surveyor, requesting anonymity, said land normally gets washed away due to soil erosion and sometimes, it extends. But in this case, the land is between Pavinkurva, Karki and Mailukurva villages in Kasarkod and is at a distance from Honnavar port. The land is crucial as it is part of the Sagarmala project and is at a spot where Sharavathi river enters the Arabian Sea, he added.

The local residents, not convinced with the explanation given by the district administration, have contested the claims and approached courts with land records. They have pointed out that they have been staying here for decades. They have also staged a series of protests. The surveyor said that the land is being given to the company on a 99-year lease under the build operate and transfer basis.

Environment Secretary Brijesh Kumar said, "I was told that the land falls between two rivers and sand has levelled the land. But as it is not convincing, a detailed report has been sought from the Regional Coastal Zonal Management wing."

'Rules violated'

Ports Department Director, Captain C Swamy, said that as per rules, any additional land is port land, unless transferred to private companies with proper records. Officials from coastal zonal management said it is a violation of coastal zonal management plan which was approved in 2018. The plan too shows that the land existed back then.

Climate activist Disha Ravi (left) after appearing before a court in New Delhi on Sunday | SOURCE: TWITTER

DISHA, BENGALURU'S GRETA, SENT TO 5-DAY DELHI POLICE CUSTODY

21-yr-old climate activist accused of editing, sharing, spreading toolkit on farmer protests

BALA CHAUHAN & PARVEZ SULTAN @ Bengaluru, New Delhi

CLIMATE activist Disha Ravi, who was arrested in Bengaluru on Saturday, was remanded to five days in police custody by a Delhi court on Sunday. She was picked up from her Bengaluru residence by the special cybercrime cell of the Delhi Police, who had filed an FIR on February 4 against unknown persons for sharing a toolkit on farmer protests in Delhi on social media sites, aiming to spread 'disaffection against the Government of India'.

***The New Indian Express* was the first to report Disha's arrest from Bengaluru by the Delhi Police in its edition dated February 14, 2021.**

Disha (21) is accused of 'editing', 'sharing' and 'spreading' the toolkit, which is a Google document, on farmer protests that was shared by international climate activist Greta Thunberg. Disha's arrest is the first in the case registered over the 'toolkit'. She was brought to Delhi on Saturday evening and produced before the court on Sunday morning. The Delhi Police sought seven days custody of Disha, contending that they needed to probe her on an alleged larger conspiracy against the Indian government and to ascertain her alleged links with the "pro-Khalistani" movement. Duty Magistrate Dev Saroha, however, allowed only five days of custody.

During the hearing, Disha broke down inside the courtroom and told the judge that she had edited just two lines of the document and her only aim was to support the farmers' protest. The police argued that Disha, along with several others, edited the 'toolkit' on February 3.

In a statement released on Sunday, the Delhi Police alleged that Disha was one of the editors of the 'Toolkit Google Doc' and that she was also a key conspirator in formatting and disseminating the document.

In a series of tweets, the police said that Disha had started a WhatsApp group and collaborated with others to prepare the Toolkit document.

CONTINUED ON: P4,9

Activist's mother exploring legal options

A day after climate activist Disha Ravi was arrested, her mother said they have consulted legal experts. "We have taken our lawyer's opinion to proceed with a legal battle, and it is too early to react to the incident," her mother Manjula told TNIE. P4

6 bodies found in Tapovan tunnel, 155 still missing

VINEET UPADHYAY @ Dehradun

A week after efforts began to rescue 37 workers trapped in the Tapovan tunnel of a hydropower project following flash floods, the bodies of six of them were retrieved after clearing sludge up to 180 metres inside.

The alternative parallelly pursued to bore into the floor of the tunnel to reach a silt filtration tunnel below in the hope that the workers were perhaps stuck there, has now been abandoned, as bodies are being retrieved from the main tunnel itself.

Garhwal division commissioner Ravinath Raman said, "13 bodies were recovered today — seven in Raini village and six from the Tapovan tunnel." The toll has now gone up to 51 and 155 others are missing.

Meanwhile, the Central Water Commission is conducting simulation studies on a new lake in the upper reaches of the Rishiganga, 8 km upstream from Raini village, and exploring the possibility of a controlled blast to drain it.

EXPRESS READ

Senate acquits Trump in impeachment trial

Washington: The US Senate has acquitted Donald Trump in his second impeachment trial after falling short of the two-thirds majority needed to convict him on a charge of inciting last month's insurrection at the Capitol, even as seven members of the former President's party delivered a historic rebuke by joining Democrats in voting against him | P11

WITH THIS ISSUE

THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex

34 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID), 4 of city express

Over ₹8,000 crore worth projects coming up in TN

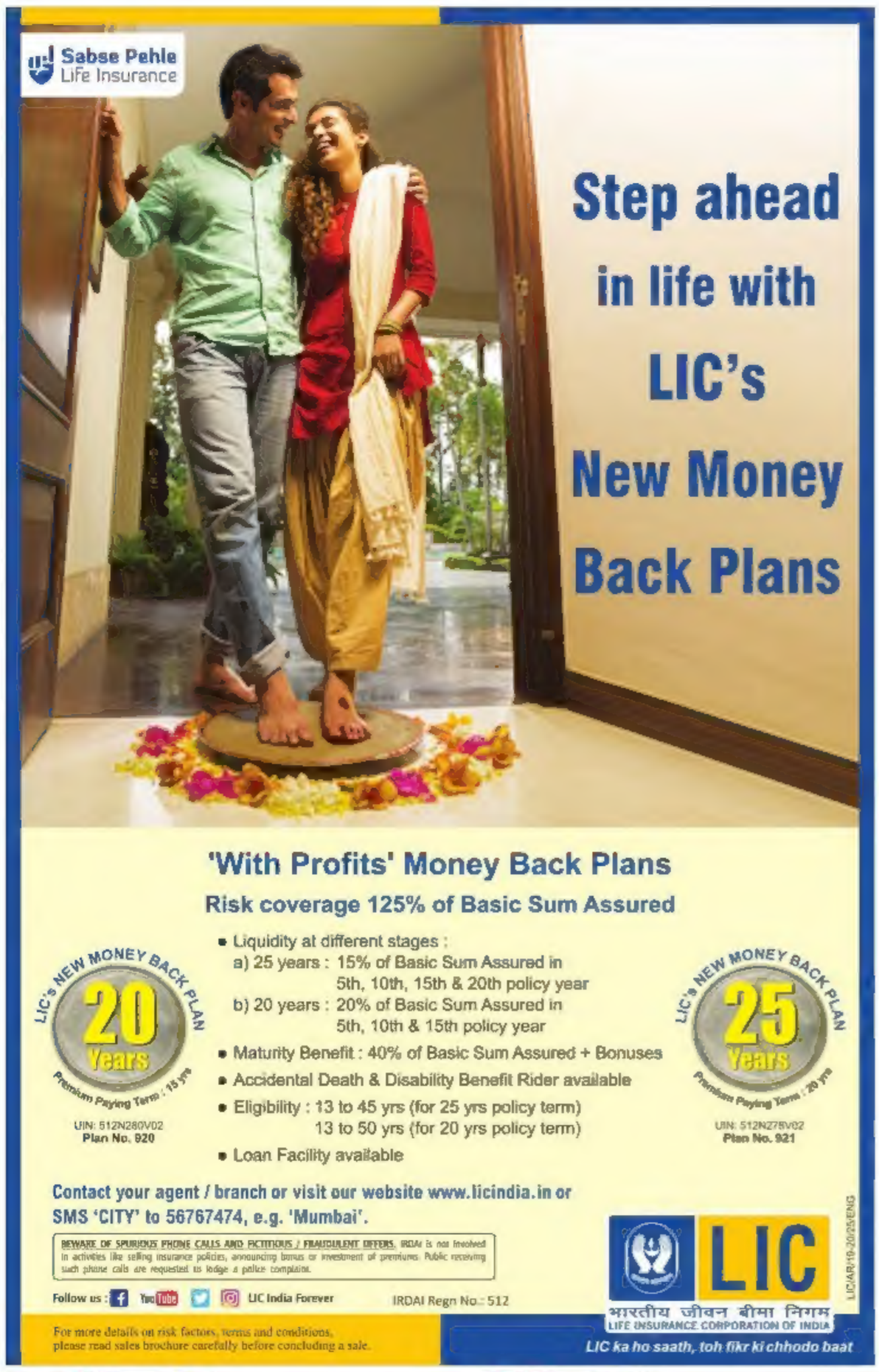
T MURUGANANDHAM @ Chennai

THE message was clear, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation for new projects worth a massive ₹8,126 crore on Sunday in Chennai – the Centre has kept its word on delivering development in Tamil Nadu.

The top projects launched by the Prime Minister are, the inauguration of the Chennai Metro extension from Washermanpet to Wimco Nagar, beginning of works on the fourth railway line from Chennai Beach to Attipattu, and laying of foundation to renovate the Grand Anicut.

In his 40-minute speech, PM Modi touched upon several issues that have political relevance, and are likely to debated during the elections. P5

PM Narendra Modi presents a replica of the Arjun tank to Army Chief General M M Naravane in Chennai | PJAWAHAR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